

I am outraged and appalled by Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force all of their affiliate stations to air an anti-Kerry "documentary" just days before the presidential election. This is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airways free of charge and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large corporations control the airwaves in multiple markets in multiple states, we get more of what's good for their bottom line (including programming feeds and news content decided upon by a central office) and less of what we need for a functional democracy.

Sinclair's abuse of their access to the public airwaves, which belong to all of the citizens of the United States, demonstrates why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Sinclair's actions show why the license renewal process must involve thorough reviews of licensees adherence to their mandate to serve the public interest. License renewals should not be a "rubber stamp" process. Thank you.